Non-Procurement of Bajra at Minimum Support Price

2638. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India does not procure Bajra at Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for fixing the minimum support price for Bajra when Government do not have any willingness to ensure its MSP to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The procurement of Bajra and other coarse grains is being done by the State Governments and their agencies. The Food Corporation of India is procuring Bajra in Rajasthan, along with the State Government and its agencies, as a special measure, due to bumper arrivals. As on 7-12-2001, a quantity of 26029 tonnes of Bajra has already been procured from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the current Kharif Marketing Season.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Storage capacity for Paddy Crop

2639. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangements for adequate godown capacity before the paddy crop come in market in next few months;

(b) whether Government have streamlined its machinery for the procurement and purchase of paddy from farmers so that they are not forced for panic sale; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All necessary arrangements for smooth conduct of procurement of paddy from farmers have been made before the start of the Kharif season. Procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Governments and/or their Agencies has started from the beginning of the Kharif season all over India. Adequate number of purchase centres have opened by FCI in consultation with State Governments.

Subsidy to the FCI

2640. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to the Food Corporation of India for the benefit of the consumers and producers during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the details of wheat, rice and paddy procured by the FCI during the last four years, state-wise;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the carrying storage etc. cost of buffer stocks and the achievements during the said years; and

(d) the procurement price of the foodgrains during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the distribution price, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Amount released to FCI/States during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	FCI	States	Total
1997-98	7472	28	7500
1998-99	8646	54	8700
1999-2000	8856.36	343.64	9200
2000-2001	11462	548	12010